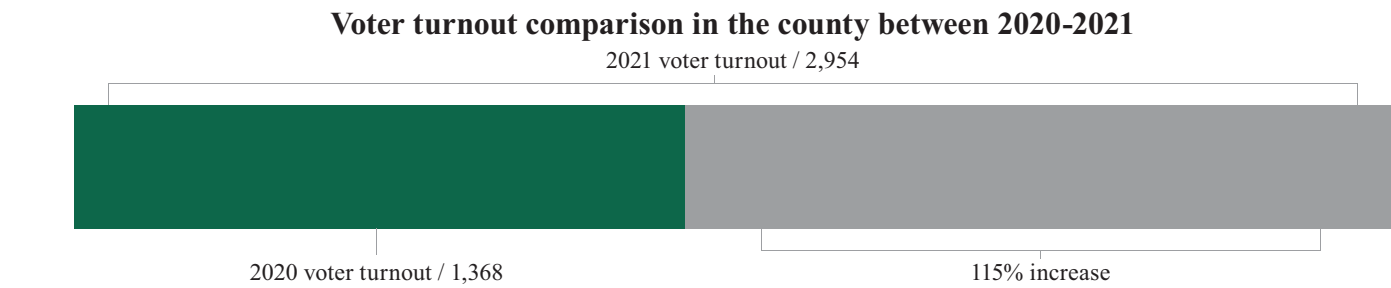
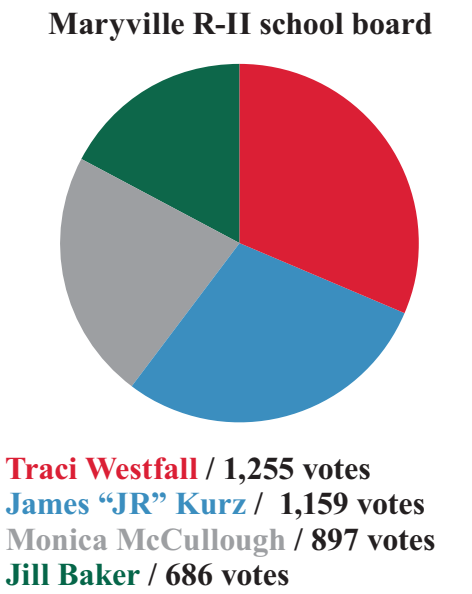
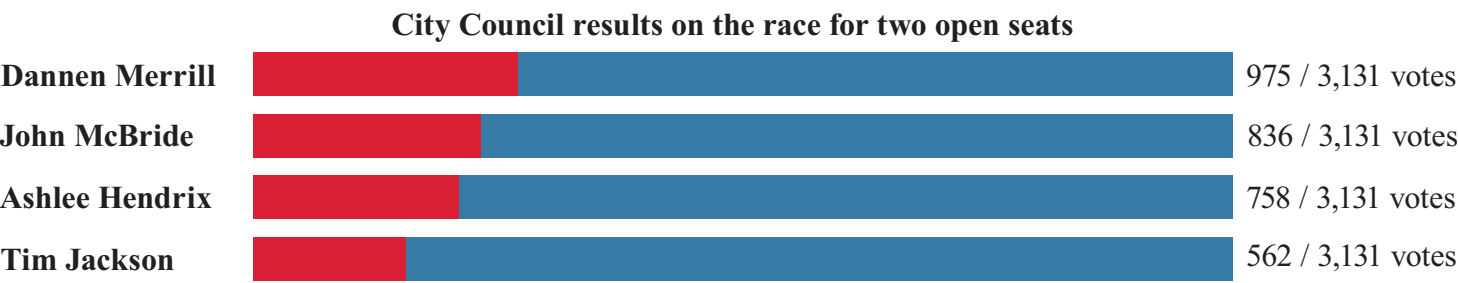


NODAWAY COUNTY APRIL 6 MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS BY THE NUMBERS



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN



Dannen Merrill garnered the most votes in the April 6 election leading with 975 votes. Merrill received the most votes of any city council candidate since 2014.



John McBride received 836 votes in the April 6 municipal election, winning him a seat of the Maryville City Council. McBride will be sworn in along with Dannen Merrill April 12.

KENDRICK CALFEE  
News Editor | @calfee\_kc

CITY ELECTION 2021

Merrill, McBride win Council seats

Dannen Merrill and John McBride will take their seats on the Maryville City Council for the first time April 12, after winning in one of the most impassioned Nodaway County elections in recent years. Unofficial results of the election announced April 6 have Merrill leading with 975 votes, and McBride close behind with 836. Ashlee Hendrix was 78 votes behind McBride, with 758 unofficial votes; Tim Jackson ended with 562. A total of 3,131 votes were cast for City Council. McBride and Merrill will be sworn in to replace outgoing City Councilmen Jason McDowell and Matt Johnson. After an election season seemingly prolonged by dormant months of a global pan-

dem, candidates McBride and Merrill saw their campaigns come to fruition. Newly empowered and amplified voices of the community, most active on social media, worked to both highlight the issues and overshadow them. But now, with the election officially over, McBride and Merrill said they want to refocus

on issues that matter outside of COVID-19. Merrill garnered the most votes of any city council candidate since 2014. He attended the unofficial count in the Nodaway County Administration Building April 6, where he said he is looking forward to working on the Council.

“You know, the citizens of Maryville spoke, and I spoke many times about being fiscally conservative and looking at how the budget can be changed to spend more money on primary focuses of government,” Merrill said. “Some of the hot-button issues of this past year may or may not have been on the ballot tonight,” Merrill said. “I never ran on anything to do with the pandemic; it was always about business as usual for the city and finances, and that being important.” McBride, who ended up celebrating his campaign victory and marriage anniversary on the same night, spoke with Merrill at A&G Restaurant shortly after the unofficial results came in. After congratulating one another, McBride wanted to thank his supporters.

SEE ELECTIONS | A4

Students elect 99th Senate exec board

SIDNEY LOWRY  
News Reporter | @sidney\_lowry

Despite being able to campaign in person this year, in contrast to the virtual campaign and election from spring 2020, this election faced a similar problem as the year before: unopposed tickets. At its April 6 meeting, Student Senate announced the election results of the 99th Student Senate for the 2021-22 academic year. The executive seats go to junior Bailey Hendrickson serving as president, sophomore Hunter Grantham as vice president, junior Chloe Kallhoff as secretary and sophomore Jenna Lee-Johnson as treasurer. For this election, 517 members of the student body voted for their representatives — garnering 111 more votes than the 2020 election that saw 406 votes and over 100 less votes than the 2019 election that brought in 633 votes. Hendrickson, who started the sole executive ticket on the 99th Student Senate ballot, is currently the executive secretary but ran to replace senior Kirayle Jones as executive president. Last year, the executive ticket she was on ran with no competitors. “We always want someone to run against during elections, but was it a



The executive seats for the 99th Student Senate go to junior Bailey Hendrickson serving as president, sophomore Hunter Grantham as vice president, junior Chloe Kallhoff as secretary and sophomore Jenna Lee-Johnson as treasurer. The election results were announced at their April 6 meeting.

bit of a relief that we did have it secured? Yes,” Hendrickson said. “But we always want as many people as possible to participate and serve.” Grantham, current sophomore class president, ran to take over senior Debrielle Patee-Merrill’s role as the executive vice president. Junior

Class Representative Kallhoff ran for secretary, currently held by Hendrickson, and Lee-Johnson ran to replace junior Connor Thompson as the executive treasurer. Junior Kourtne Stenwall said that having an unopposed executive ticket and other positions makes it

seem like there is no reason for students to vote. “I feel like it defeats the purpose of voting,” Stenwall said. “I feel like there should be some kind of choice.”

SEE SENATE | A4

Donation rule limits Senate aid allocations

SIDNEY LOWRY  
News Reporter | @sidney\_lowry

After being left in confusion on the policy for donations following the March 30 Student Senate meeting, University finance officials said that they are allowed to make charitable donations to student organizations, but not when the money goes straight to the charitable organization itself. Mary Collins, controller and assistant vice president of finance, and Stacy Carrick, vice president of finance and administration, explained that this policy has always been in place, there has just been a miscommunication on how that policy has been enforced. “This has been in the state statutes and our University expense procedure since I have been in this role,” Collins said.

SEE DONATIONS | A4

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# Maryville updates old Mozingo laws, hires new director

**KENDRICK CALFEE**  
News Editor | @calfee\_kc

The city is working on a public education campaign for changes to 25-year-old ordinances governing Mozingo Lake Recreation Park.

Assistant City Manager Ryan Heiland worked with Mozingo’s Recreation Coordinator Brandon Cartwright to modify codes in Chapter 212, which is dedicated to city laws governing Mozingo. These changes affect park fees, camping, checkout times, tournament rules and regulations, golf carts, and more minor changes, like updated language for the park.

Over the past few years, there have been small changes in this chapter, but there hasn’t been a significant overhaul of this kind since its inception in 1996.

Chapter 212 is one of the largest chapters in the city code, Heiland said, which motivated city staff to help make it more user-friendly and up to date.

“It really was an effort to ... bring up the processes and ordinances to current practices that we use at Mozingo,” Heiland said.

**Camping updates**  
The most significant changes came in the camping section of Chapter 212, where the city fo-

cused on increased occupancy and expanding the campground.

The first change under this section was a clarification that camping in the reserved RV and tent camping areas is limited to 14 consecutive days in a single spot. Campers in nonreserved spots are still allowed an unlimited stay.

Checkout times were also updated from their original 3 p.m. deadline. The new language, which was approved by the City Council March 22, changes checkout times to 1 p.m. for maintenance between stays.

In the newly revised code, campers in nonreserved areas are required to pay camping fees upfront. Heiland said this change comes as a way to prevent conflicts with people not paying.

“A camper will come in and they will look for an empty spot, and then at that point, they will leave a trailer behind, and we may not see them again for two or three days,” Heiland said at the March 22 City Council meeting. “As soon as you get back with your camper, then we’re already addressing you that you need to pay for these three days, and it’s created a lot of conflicts.”

Updated code includes new



ALYSSA VISOS | NW MISSOURIAN

The city updated ordinances governing Mozingo’s Recreation Park, pictured April 7, for the first time in 25 years.

technology that aims to allow for a smoother reservation process. Campers will pay for the site they are occupying, receive a “paid” tag to put at their site and their payment will be logged in the park’s computer system.

Heiland said he thinks people will enjoy the new payment system more once they get used to it.

**Other updates**  
Over the past several years, the city noticed golf carts becoming more popular among guests at Mozingo. The updated code requires golf cart operators to have a valid driver’s license and be over the age of 16. Golf carts can only be operated from sunrise to sunset, unless they are equipped with headlights. Golf carts with headlights can not be operated between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., according to the revised city code.

Additionally, the updated code removes the fees section to allow for more flexibility of prices for products at Mozingo. This change aligns with a similar section in codes for Maryville Parks and Recreation, where any permanent changes to base rates will be reviewed by the Mozingo Advisory Board and approved by the City Council.

Fishing tournaments held at Mozingo from July 1 to Aug. 31 must end no later than 1:30 p.m. This change came after Tory Mason, a fishery biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, recommended the change to increase

er, who was previously the community center manager at Maryville Parks and Recreation.

Ron Darnell, the previous director at Mozingo, retired at the beginning of 2021.

“

It really was an effort to ... bring up the processes and ordinances to current practices that we use at Mozingo.”

**-RYAN HEILAND**

the survivability of fish at the lake.

Revisions also include a strict penalty system for the dumping of wastewater at campsites. Campers will be given a warning on the first offence, then removed from the park on a second offence.

Heiland talked highly of Mozingo’s new Park Director Justin Mill-

These changes to Chapter 212 in city code have been reviewed and approved by the Mozingo Advisory Board and Maryville City Council. Additional information can be found on the city website and through other communication means from Mozingo Lake Recreation Park.

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ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN  
Justin Mallett, the University's associate provost for Diversity and Inclusion, presents the office's Mid-Year Diversity Report to the Board of Regents Jan. 28. The office recently received a \$20,000 grant to promote equity on campus.

# DI office gets \$20,000 grant to improve equity

KAILEE FORD  
News Reporter | @kailee\_ford

Northwest's Office of Diversity and Inclusion received a \$20,000 grant from the Missouri Scholarship and Loan Foundation in an effort to address racial equity in Missouri higher education.

Assistant Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion Justin Mallett said this was an important action that will be vital in addressing racial inequality after the events of summer 2020.

George Floyd, an unarmed black man in Minneapolis, died due to former police officer Derek Chauvin pinning Floyd to the ground and pressing his knee onto his neck May 25, 2020. Floyd's death sparked a wave of protests all over the world, including in Maryville.

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion has held presentations and hosted various educational opportunities throughout the 2020-21 academic year for students and employees to engage in conversations about race at Northwest.

Mallett said that the grant will allow Northwest to continue to pro-

mote diversity and inclusion, and continue programs and educational opportunities to promote racial equity in the future.

Some educational opportunities that have been outlined in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion's Mid-Year Report will include more presentations about implicit bias, microaggressions and being an ally to marginalized groups.

"Everyone can benefit and feel like they have an impact on the discussion of social justice and systemic racism," Mallett said.

The Missouri Scholarship and Loan Foundation, which authorized the grant, focuses on helping students with financial aid issues attend higher education in Missouri.

Due to George Floyd's death, the board at the Missouri Scholarship and Loan Foundation had a meeting to talk about what it could do in response. From there, it created the Institutional Racial Equity Initiative Grant.

Executive director of the Missouri Scholarship and Loan Foundation Melissa Findley said the group started offering grant funds to schools and institutions that are working to be innovative to address

race and equity.

The grants are open to any public universities in Missouri, which includes four-year and two-year institutions and community colleges in the state.

Schools that wanted to participate in the grant had to make a plan of what they would do with the money that would be a part of racial equity on campus. Once a plan was submitted, it would be approved by the Missouri Scholarship and Loan Foundation.

Some criteria that it was looking for in institutions were schools that were already working on bringing awareness to issues of racial inequality on campus, as well as actively addressing those inequities.

"We want to change institutional norms and practices, and improve conditions for students of color," Findley said.

Northwest is one of 12 colleges to receive the grant.

Mallett said the grant will be helpful in continuing diversity and inclusion efforts on campus, and that inclusion efforts won't only focus on race but on other categories of equity, such as gender and LGBTQ groups.

# Missouri bill proposes local oversight changes

MADLINE MAPES  
Assistant News Editor | @MadelineDMapes

A Missouri representative has introduced a bill that may change how restrictions on gatherings, closures of businesses and other entities in a community are made by local governments and health officials.

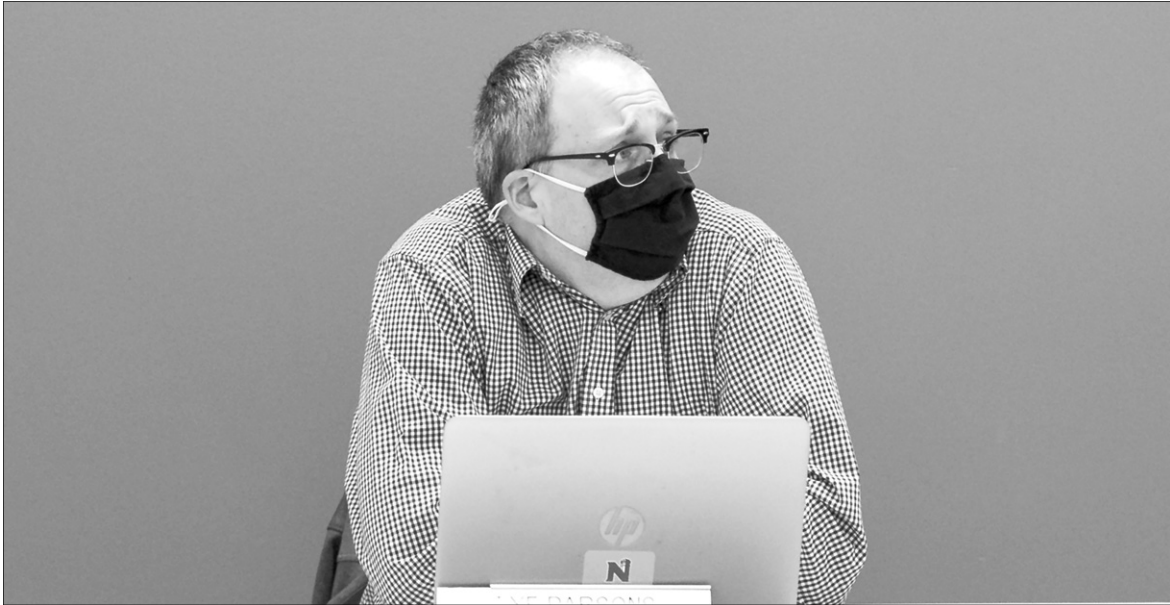
House Bill 75, sponsored by Rep. Jim Murphy of St. Louis County, addresses public health and safety closures, which have become a more prevalent occurrence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Murphy said the bill will allow local health officials and local governments to work in conjunction with one another to make sure these restrictions are the best option for their communities.

He noted that there have been some issues in regard to oversight among local health officials and local governments.

"Pretty much it started out because there are eight or nine counties around the state where the health departments decided that they could make their own rules," Murphy said.

He said in one instance, a health department and the county executive in St. Louis County found a loophole in the Missouri statutes that allowed them to make these



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN  
Maryville City Councilman Tye Parsons — one of the Council's most outspoken members on COVID-19 matters — attends a meeting Feb. 22. Parsons does not support Missouri House Bill 75, which addresses public health oversight.

regulations without any legislative oversight of the county council, who would normally have a say in these regulations.

Murphy said the reason this becomes problematic is because an unelected official, who is only accountable to a county executive, is making rules and regulations that impact their entire communities.

HB 75 states it will "provide time-limited authority for political subdivisions to order closures of businesses, churches, schools or other public gatherings for reasons of public health or safety." This means that for each order to shut down, local economies will have to go through an approval process depending on how long the shut-

down is.

The bill allows local health officials to order a shutdown for up to 15 days without legislative oversight by a local government. For closures up to 45 days, a local full governing body must provide a vote in favor of the closure. Closures from 45 days to 90 days require approval from the Missouri

Department of Health and Senior Services. Lastly, closures that go beyond 90 days must be approved by the Missouri General Assembly if it is in session, or by the Joint Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Awareness.

Murphy filed the same bill in August 2020 during a special session called by Gov. Mike Parson. He said the only reason he filed the bill, HB 29, during the special session was to show the Missouri legislator that he had some concerns and wanted them to be aware of the situation. Fully knowing this bill would not be seen during special session, he refiled the bill during regular session this year, and it has now gone through a public hearing with the Missouri Senate.

HB 75 passed through the House with a 115-44 vote. It is currently waiting to be heard on the Senate floor for a vote. If it is approved by the Senate, it will be sent to Gov. Parson for him to sign into law.

Murphy said the bill will help provide legislative oversight in bigger communities that are seeing issues among its health officials and governing bodies not collaborating.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
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CRIME LOG  
for the week of April 8

Northwest Missouri  
State University  
Police Department

April 1  
There are three closed investigations for liquor law violations at Roberta Hall.

Maryville Department  
of Public Safety

March 21  
A summons was issued to **Laura A. Shuetz**, 22, for harboring a vicious animal and not having a city dog license, and a summons was issued to **Tiffany A. Ellis**, 47, for harboring a vicious animal on the 200 block of South Mulberry Street.

March 30  
There is an ongoing investigation for fraud on the 500 block of East First Street.

March 31  
A summons was issued to **Devin M. Opoka**, 18, for possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and speeding on the 500 block of University Drive.

April 2  
There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 600 block of North Fillmore Street.  
A summons was issued to **Violet C. Johnston**, 29, for failure to appear in court on the 400 block of North Market Street.  
There was an accident between **Lynda D. Wallace**, 63, and **Ann L. Gaskill**, 67, on the 1100 block of South Main Street.

April 3  
A summons was issued to **Me'Aunie T. Reed**, 19, of St. Louis, Missouri, for a minor in possession and committing an illegal U-turn on the 300 block of West Sixth Street.

April 4  
A cell phone was recovered on the 200 block of East Third Street.  
There was an accident between an unknown driver and **Jeremy S. Holben**, of Waukee, Iowa, on the 500 block of West Third Street.



Nodaway County Health Center administrator Tom Patterson hands out packets of vaccine information at the Mass Vaccination Clinic April 7. Roughly 1,132 people were scheduled to receive either a first or second dose of the vaccine.

Hundreds of students receive COVID shot

MADELINE MAPES  
Assistant News Editor | @MadelineDMapes

Roughly 350 college-aged people made appointments to receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at the April 7 mass vaccination clinic at the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse, two days before the state opens eligibility to all Missouri residents including students in Phase 3 of Missouri’s COVID-19 vaccination plan.  
Community Health Nurse Bridget Kenny said some students are able to be vaccinated prior to April 9 because Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville is sending invites to vaccination clinics to whoever is registered on the sign-up list through Mosaic - Maryville’s website. She noted that some students may qualify through other tiers, but anyone who is pre registered should receive an invite as long as Mosaic - Maryville has vaccines to administer.  
The University sent out a second email to students April 5 reminding them that vaccine registration is open for them to sign up for the mass vaccination clinics, hosted on Northwest’s campus in part-

nership with Mosaic and the Nodaway County Health Department.  
This week’s mass vaccination event was held April 7, where roughly 1,132 people were scheduled to receive either a first or second dose of the vaccine.  
Kenny said that 564 first doses were administered, mostly consisting of Moderna, along with 568 second doses, which were mostly Pfizer vaccines. Due to these mass clinics, other vaccine administrators in the area and mitigation measures, local COVID-19 cases have consistently remained low.  
Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville President Nate Blackford said the entire Mosaic Life Care system, which includes three hospitals, and more than 60 clinics and outpatient locations, had only one COVID-19 patient in all of its hospitals April 3, which was a large milestone after a yearlong battle that continues on.  
“Good has been the theme for the last several weeks,” Blackford said about COVID-19 cases. “That’s as low as it’s been since, you know, probably this time last year.”  
Blackford also noted that just because trends of COVID-19 cas-

es look good locally does not mean that it is time for celebration.  
According to the Nodaway County and Northwest COVID-19 dashboards, as of April 5, the latest information available, 17 county residents currently have COVID-19, eight of which are Northwest staff or students. A total of 2,667 Nodaway Countians have had the coronavirus, and 23 local residents have died since the virus first arrived last April.  
According to the Missouri COVID-19 dashboard, as of April 6, Nodaway County is 19 out of 115 counties with the highest percent of population that has initiated the vaccination process at 26.9%.  
Blackford said although cases and prevalence of COVID-19 are low, the county continues to run the risk of a spike in cases so long as COVID-19 exists in the county.  
In order to keep cases low, Blackford encouraged people to continue following mitigation efforts, despite the removal of the mask mandate almost two weeks ago, and to get vaccinated.  
April 9 will open up eligibility to roughly 1.1 million Missourians through Phase 3, which may lead to

an influx in demand for the vaccine.  
Blackford said he felt that Mosaic - Maryville was ready to take on an increase in those willing to get the vaccine. He noted that the only obstacle that may come into play is supply and demand.  
“We are still at the mercy of the state and the federal government to release those (vaccines) as scheduled,” Blackford said.  
He noted that at one point, the hospital did have a problem with some doses not arriving on time, but it was quickly resolved.  
Blackford explained that for government entities to distribute large amounts of doses to their allocated administrators it is a difficult logistical task. Being that this distribution process was made quickly when vaccines began receiving approval from the Food and Drug Administration for emergency use, the process is imperfect but is capable of doing its job.  
Despite the flawed distribution system, Blackford said he has no current concerns about vaccine supply or Mosaic - Maryville’s preparedness for the opening of Phase 3 April 9.



Executive Treasurer senior Connor Thompson briefs the Student Senate on treasurer affairs in its latest meeting April 6 where the 99th Student Senate elected positions were announced.

MARYANN JOHNSON | NW MISSOURIAN

DONATIONS  
CONTINUED FROM A1

“Nothing has changed about that, but we have reached out to Dr. Hoffmann and challenged and said, ‘Beware, we have the University expense procedure in place, so that is an unallowable expense,’” Collins said.  
The allowed expense when it comes to donations is when the Student Senate gives organizations money to help fund their philanthropic and service events. The unallowed expense is when the Senate gives a student organization money that they will directly give to the charity.  
“I think COVID-19 has caused maybe some of this, looking back over the past year,” Collins said. “But again, the Student Senate is there to help these organizations be a part of those types of events, but the intent is that we don’t just transfer money as a charitable donation to the various outside charitable organizations.”  
Something that helped create this problem is that the money given by Student Senate to organizations was labeled incorrectly.  
“I think we have had some examples where some things that were deemed as an allocation really were charitable contributions, so I think there is some confusion on what is a student allocation versus a charitable contribution,” Collins said.

When it comes to labeling it as the correct allocation, they said they can see where some confusion can occur.  
“Sometimes it’s hard to know exactly, but we’re not benefitting a third party,” Carrick said. “The Student Senate is using those funds to benefit a student org that is directly related to Northwest and directly a part of our day-to-day business.”  
Each year, finance gives training sessions to the leadership team of Student Senate about the credit cards and the expense policy.  
““  
Student Senate is there to help ...”  
-MARY COLLINS

ELECTIONS  
CONTINUED FROM A1

“If I could say one thing, it would be it was an absolute team effort, people in Maryville and outside of Maryville who supported and helped me get this far.”  
“I am overwhelmed, humbled,” McBride said. “But absolutely ready to get to work at the same time.”  
Hendrix reflected a similar message of gratitude to her supporters, and in a phone call said she looks forward to serving the community in any way she can.  
“I just want to thank those who supported me,” Hendrix said. “I learned campaigning is tough, but I got through it. I look forward to serving my community in other ways going forward.”

Candidate Tim Jackson did not respond to a message for comment.  
Those who served on the City Council throughout the pandemic saw an increased resident attendance shortly after the pandemic began seeping into a small community. Protests on face-covering mandates and business shutdowns fueled several candidates’ campaigns. Rhetoric reciprocated from national politics trickled down to infiltrate a local community who became divided over drinking water and roads.  
Maryville R-II School Board candidates didn’t buy into the division.  
At the March 31 Candidate Forum put on by the Greater Maryville Chamber of Commerce, each candidate said they didn’t condone hateful messaging. They also said it didn’t make sense to be a “polit-

ical school board candidate.”  
In this local race, Traci Westfall led the pack with 1,255 unofficial votes, and Kurz came close behind with 1,159. Monica McCollough garnered 897 votes and Jill Baker finished off with 686 votes April 6. A total of 3,997 ballots were cast for Maryville R-II School Board.  
For the Nodaway County Health Center Board of Trustees race, Debra Hull led with 1,822 votes. Bridget Kenny garnered 1,221 votes. Mike Rosenbohm had 1,155 votes, and David Smith got 704 votes. There were 15 total write-ins and a total of 4,902 ballots were cast for this race.  
In each of these heavily contested elections, four candidates were running for two open seats.

SENATE  
CONTINUED FROM A1

The 98th Student Senate bylaws state that every class must have four representatives. This won’t be a problem for the sophomore class, who has six students running for representative spots, but for the junior class, they fall two people short of being able to meet that four representative requirement. The senior class met the requirement of four people running for the representative spots.  
“If in the normal election year, if we don’t get all those spots filled, we are actually able to take nominations from the current senators that are sworn in,” Jones said.  
Though it is supposed to be the “backseat” option, it is likely the way that multiple representative spots are going to have to be filled.

On-campus and off-campus positions must have five representatives each. Off-campus representatives had seven students running for that position, but the on-campus representative position only had one student running, leaving four vacant spots that will have to be filled in the upcoming academic year by the sitting senators.  
Of the 26 spots that are meant to be filled by the spring elections, six are not going to be filled by vote of the student body and will have to be nominated by the senators next year.  
Stenwall said that she didn’t vote in the election because she didn’t know exactly when it was happening.  
“I follow some people on social media that are in Student Senate, so I heard about the campaigning, but I didn’t know when or where I was supposed to vote,” Stenwall said.



Missouri continues its war on education

QUENTIN MORRIS  
Missourian Columnist  
@TheMissourian



The best way to determine someone’s actions in the future is to look at their actions of the past, and Missouri’s action toward public schools has proven they do not believe it is worth investing in. College students are directly impacted by this. Tuition across the United States has increased at an alarming rate, and Missouri’s spending has decreased significantly.

Last year, the state cut \$2.5 million, or about 9% of Northwest’s annual revenue, and this is nothing new. From 2008-18, the state’s funding has decreased more than \$2,000 per student. Now the legislature is shifting to attack local public schools with House Bill 543.

Missouri HB 543 aims to make it easier for students to move out of the traditional public school system and into charter schools. If this bill does become law, it will be the next step in destroying public education.

Increasing enrollment in charter schools will hurt public schools by continuing to divide public funds and resources into more schools. There is only so much money to fund public education, and increasing the parents’ choice in where their child goes to school will bleed established districts dry.

During the 2018-19 school year, the Kansas City Public School system had over half of its students enrolled in a charter school. This has significantly harmed funding.

Public schools are funding mainly through property tax, but they also receive state and federal grants. Missouri uses a formula to determine how much money each of its school districts receive each year, and the largest factor is the population of its school district. If students are not going to the public school system and are instead going to charter schools, this takes funding directly away from local public school districts.

If HB 543 bill passes and students start to move out of traditional schools and into charter schools, traditional schools’ funding will be gutted.

Putting more money into charter schools does not help the education system as charter schools have not been found to provide a superior form of education. In 2007, St. Louis, Missouri, opened four charter schools. By 2011, charter schools accounted for more than 10% of the district’s population. The students going to these schools consistently performed worse on both state and city standardized tests.

HB 543 is going to harm any public school system by shifting public resources away from traditional schooling into a system that is not better. While both St. Louis and Kansas City need to improve their schools, cutting funding for existing public schools is not the way to go. Missouri’s school system is hurting enough; the push for more charter schools spells the beginning of the end for public education in the state. That’s bad for everyone.



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:

Get both doses of COVID-19 vaccine in the same place

Tier 3 of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout plan is finally here in Missouri. All residents over the age of 16 will be eligible to get their first round of shots as soon as next week.

The influx of Northwest students expected to sign up for the vaccination clinics at Carl & Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse could create a logistical nightmare. In order to prevent issues, if students aren’t planning on getting their second round of the vaccine in Maryville, they shouldn’t get their first one here either.

As ridiculous as it is that we have to say it, we on the editorial staff are pro-vaccine. The Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines — the three COVID-19 vaccines that have been cleared for use in the U.S. at the time of publication — all underwent thorough scientific tests. This vaccine was manufactured and approved in record time, but it was made painstakingly clear by those involved that all safety precautions were followed.

No person, save for those with rare allergies and certain underlying medical conditions, should feel uneasy about the safety of the vaccine.

It may seem counterintuitive to discourage some from getting the vaccine as soon as possible, but it will greatly

help the whole system in the long term. Nate Blackford, president of Mosaic - Maryville, told The Missourian that it would be best if all community members got their first dose where they planned to get their second.

It all has to do with the way vaccines are being given out. When a person gets a vaccine, the provider and area keep a record of when they get the first dose, so in the case of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, they make sure they can get their booster at the correct time.

If a student were to sign up to receive their first round in Maryville at a Mosaic, then Mosaic would automatically make sure that they set out a booster for that student.

If the student then leaves Maryville in the time being and returns home, then that already earmarked booster could go to waste. The same issue could happen on the other end, as the area the student is traveling into would be unprepared to give out a booster to the person they never gave the initial dose.

It would not be an end of the world situation if this were to happen. Yes, it is possible for students to get the first round of the vaccine in Maryville and the second round somewhere else, but it will place more strain on the system. Right now the U.S. is doing quite

well in vaccine rollout. This is rather uncharacteristic given its response to almost everything else in the pandemic. The U.S. is currently administering COVID-19 vaccines five times faster than the world average. President Joe Biden recently announced that all adults will be eligible for the vaccine in the U.S. April 19. We could see the U.S. only continue to outpace other countries, or we could see the system bogged down by confusion.

This opening the vaccine for all comes at the best possible time for those looking to be vaccinated in time for summer but perhaps at the worst logistical time for students.

The end of Northwest’s semester is mere weeks away, and many who will be getting their first round of the vaccine will be long gone from Maryville by the time they are ready for their second round, which is given three or four weeks after the initial dose for Pfizer and Moderna, respectively.

As we saw with our attempt to flatten the curve, sometimes eagerness can be the enemy in dealing with COVID-19. We want you to get the vaccine, but if you aren’t going to get the second round here, don’t get the first one here.

YOUR VIEW:

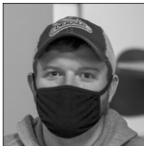
Are you getting your COVID-19 vaccine in Maryville? Why or why not?

McKenzi Gaines  
Freshman  
Biomedical Science



“If I do get it, I probably won’t get it in Maryville. I’ll wait till I get home, and I’ll probably just get it later on just to see how the side effects pan out.”

Keegan Longabaugh  
Senior  
Physical Education



“I don’t plan on getting the vaccine yet. It’s something new, and we don’t know a lot about it yet. It doesn’t mean I won’t get it at any point, but I just kinda wanna see where things go here within the next few months.”

Bethany Conley  
Sophomore  
Elementary and Special Education



“I already got it because I’m an employee at Hy-Vee, and when they opened it up to us, I jumped right on it and took advantage of it being in Maryville and close to me, and it was harder to get it in Kansas City. The spots filled up quicker than they did here.”

THE STROLLER:

Your Bearcat prefers bowling over bars

The bars are boring. Parties reek with COVID-19. What else is there to do in Maryville? After months of craving some excitement, I finally discovered the cure for the Maryville blues — bowling.

I’d already opted out of the usual social scene Friday night when I received a surprising text, “Want to go bowling?”

I didn’t know at the time, but that text would lead to a rather soul-healing experience.

It only took me about 15 minutes to find the perfect ball.

Thankfully, they aren’t labeled in any way to make the process more of an adventure. I slipped my fingers into the greasy holes and let her fly.

The sound of the ball tumbling down the lane filled me with a welcomed burst of nostalgia, but I wouldn’t get to experience the clatter of pins until my friend bowled next.

I was about to take another turn when the stale fluorescent lighting switched to black lights; it was party time. Nothing Mol-

ly’s — or Shooters — ever provided could compare to this feeling, the strobe of the neon lights combined with the twangs of country music really set the mood — I had always wanted to experience a creepy, cowboy space disco in a bowling alley. The cosmic combination must be the key because my next bowl was a strike. The pins scattered, and euphoria rushed through me.

This, I thought, is what I’ve been missing. I couldn’t believe how much we were enjoying our-

selves. Since that night, we’ve been hooked, choosing the bowling alley over the bars. Maryville is officially so boring that bowling is fun again, and Bearcat Lanes is officially the place to be.

Next time you find yourself stricken with small-town boredom, tell your friends to grab their balls; we’re going bowling.

*The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.*

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ACE  
CONTINUED FROM A8

Southern’s skillset between numbers 1-6 is nearly equal, and they can compete with anyone lined up across the net.

Northwest remains two games ahead of Washburn (3-0 MIAA North). With another MIAA match-up looming for the Bearcats, they are looking to keep that separation between the Ichabods.

“No, I don’t think so,” Rosewell said about feeling pressure facing Southern. “They are in the South

(Division), so you know, it’s a little bit different. I think the guys know it’s a very important match, but I wouldn’t say pressure.”

The Northwest women played three different teams on three different days on the road. Like the men, the women (6-4 overall, 3-1 MIAA) began their weekend stretch April 1 against the Savage Storm.

Southeastern took an early 1-0 lead by winning a tiebreaker at No. 3 doubles, but singles play was all Bearcats, leading to a 4-3 duel victory.

Northwest sophomore Julia Aliseda improved her record to 6-0 at No. 3 singles, and freshman Vera Alen-

icheva moved to 8-0 at No.1 singles.

The fate of the duel rested on the shoulders of freshman Angela Per Moreno. Going into the third set tied at 3, she had to overcome Southeastern junior Vanessa Cozamanis. It was a back-and-forth battle, but Moreno won the third set 6-3.

“It’s one thing to feel pressure for your own individual match, but when the whole match is on your court, now that is pressure,” Rosewell said. “It’s the best I’ve seen her play since she’s been here, so that tells you something right there. She played outstanding that day.”

The women were right back at it

April 2, facing Northeastern State, a team the Bearcats have not beaten since 1989.

Northwest showed no sign of exhaustion, and stormed past the RiverHawks by winning 6-1. The win broke a 20-duel losing streak to the ‘Hawks and moved the ‘Cats to 3-20 all time versus Northeastern.

The Bearcats took advantage of every asset of the duel. Northwest scored wins at No. 2 and No. 3 doubles, while taking five of the six singles matches. Freshman Tessa Kwakernaak picked up her first win of the year at No. 1 singles in two sets.

The road trip ended April 3

against No. 5 Central Oklahoma. The Bearcats had no answers for the Bronchos, losing 7-0 and suffering their first MIAA loss of the season.

Northwest put up a fight in matches across the duel. The duo of Aliseda and Moreno took Central’s No. 2 doubles to the wire but lost 7-5.

The women will follow the men April 11 to face Southern Arkansas. The Muleriders stole a 6-1 dual victory on March 10, 2020.

“They’ve got a very good team; they’re one the best teams in the region, and that’s going to be a real challenge,” Rosewell said.

’Cats at home for final week of season

**CALVIN SILVERS**  
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

No. 18 Northwest volleyball took on rival Missouri Western April 3, looking to extend its winning streak against the Griffons to seven straight.

Bearcat sophomore outside hitter Jaden Ferguson continued her offensive onslaught, tallying 13 kills while hitting 35.5%, helping Northwest (10-2 overall, 4-2 MIAA North) sweep Western in three straight sets.

“I thought our serving and passing came out of the little funk that it was in, like, we weren’t doing as well passing last week, so I felt like serving and passing was back up to where it needed to be,” Northwest coach Amy Woerth said about the Western game. “I definitely felt like we got them out of system a lot.”

A handful of Bearcats stepped up, including freshman outside hitter Payton Kirchhoefer. Kirchhoefer had 13 kills and six attack errors.

“Although I’d like to see her hit at a higher percentage, 13 kills is still a good amount of points that she is earn-



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN  
Junior libero Hannah Koechl prepares to serve the ball during Northwest volleyball’s 3-0 sweep of Park University March 30 in Bearcat Arena.

ing for us, which is awesome,” Woerth said. “Just being so young, being a freshman and being able to do that consistently as well is impressive.”

The sweep of Western marks four straight matches in which Northwest has won in three sets, a streak that began March 27 against then-No. 24 Central Missouri.

With two games remaining in the regular season, sophomore setter Alyssa Rezac sees her team constantly improving, peaking at the right time for the MIAA postseason tournament.

“I think we are continually getting better week by week. Coming off those wins always feels good, but we continue to learn about our weaknesses, so when we hit the conference tournament, we are playing at our best,” Rezac said. “There is still a lot of potential for this group, and I am excited to see how we keep growing.”

The recent dominance from Northwest begins in practice. Woerth has seen her team improve in all assets during drills, which is translating to the court on game day. The Bearcats know this is a huge step in the right direction for the program.

The remaining two games on

the regular-season schedule begin April 9 against Fort Hays State in Bearcat Arena.

Fort Hays is sitting at the bottom of the MIAA North Division at 0-5 and has won three games this season, all against teams in the MIAA South Division. While the Tigers are at the bottom of the conference, this is a team the Bearcats cannot overlook.

Serving and passing is the bread and butter for Fort Hays. When the Tigers are passing efficiently, it can be a challenge to break their offensive rhythm.

To counter a team that focuses on passing, Northwest is preparing its servers to move the Tigers out of system and find the gaps in the offense.

“Regardless of which team we are playing and what their record is, we know that we always have to be ready. We really focus on what we do on our side of the net,” Rezac said. “If we can play at the high level that we are capable of and limit our unforced errors, then that is a recipe for success for us.”

While Fort Hays has not had the season it imagined, the Tigers are making steps in the right direction. In their April 1 matchup against No. 11 Nebraska-Kearney, they took a set from the Lopers.

“That’s huge. When you look at the top team in your pod, that they took a set away from them and why they got a set away from them, I think it is something you can study and try to figure out so it doesn’t happen to you,” Woerth said. “From that standpoint, they are a team we got to pay attention to, especially from the serving and passing side.”

Northwest will close out the season April 10 against Nebraska-Kearney in Bearcat Arena. In the first matchup between the two teams March 12, the Lopers defeated the Bearcats in three sets.

The defense is the strong point for Kearney. The Lopers have one of the highest kill-to-dig percentages in the

UP NEXT

NW vs. Fort Hays

6 p.m. April 9

Bearcat Arena

MIAA. That high percentage is hard to counter because, as a team is trying to get kills, the Lopers take those digs and turn around and get kills in transition, which depletes a team’s energy.

“Nebraska-Kearney is usually a pretty consistent team. They find ways to make plays and have minimal errors,” Rezac said. “They have good defenders in the backcourt and really force us to work smarter with what we are doing with our offense.”

Kearney senior middle blocker Anna Squiers is an individual to focus on in the contest. She is one of 26 Lopers to be named an All-American and has been named All-MIAA three times in her career.

Another individual to zone in on is senior outside hitter Mary Katherine Wolfe. Wolfe has been named All-MIAA two times in her career and is currently 23rd on the Kearney career digs list with 1,181.

Since 2012, Northwest has failed to pick up a win against the Lopers, losing 13 straight matches.

“We definitely need to be playing our best game. It’s going to be helpful that we’re going to be at home, but we need to dig-to-kill at a high percentage,” Woerth said. “We need to serve and pass to get them out of system so that we can make it more manageable on the defensive side for us to get a dig-to-kill.”

“I think they are completely different teams that we are playing on Friday and Saturday, which is a big challenge for us,” Woerth said. “There are going to be some challenges for us to overcome, and I’m super excited to see how they’re going to respond to them. For us, it’s just doing our game plan and taking every single point at a time.”

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FRESHMEN  
CONTINUED FROM A8

“After he got hurt, I already knew what was gonna happen,” Jackson said. “When Byron went down, I knew I had to step up a little bit.”

Jackson played 25 minutes the next night against Flagler. It wasn’t the stat-stuffing performance that happens in fairy tales, but it was one that helped Northwest to the title game.

“I mean, we just had to get Isaiah ready,” McCollum said about Jackson, who tallied 4 points and four rebounds in the Final Four. “We knew Isaiah would be fine, defensively, but (Byron’s) cutting and rebounding was what we needed to replace as well, and I thought he did a pretty good job in all of the games.”

There Jackson was, though, after not playing in 13 games this season, playing in one of the biggest games of his life. Multiple times this past sea-

son, McCollum mentioned the sacrifice that Jackson and Alexander make by being on the team. Both of them, McCollum has said, could start for a majority of programs in Division II.

“Defensively in particular, they both did what they needed to do to get into the lineup,” McCollum said.

“It was different because I started my whole high school career,” Alexander said about coming off the bench. “So, in order to come in and just kind of be OK with, just being the sixth man, it’s just really about being humble and knowing what’s best for the team.”

His 2-point and two-rebound performance wasn’t going to make any headlines, but Jackson’s defensive efforts during his 16 minutes of action in the title game aided Northwest to an 80-54 beat down of West Texas A&M.

Jackson was looked upon to be an extra quick defender on the floor for Northwest. He never expected

to be there, though.

“I never thought I’d be sixth man,” Jackson said about the National Championship. “I never thought I’d actually be a factor in the game.”

Alexander wasn’t forgotten, either. Despite the Elite Eight game being the last time he played, it wasn’t the last time he touched the court for Northwest.

With 26 seconds left in the title game, Alexander checked in. He might’ve only had one effective ankle — and another that has him in a boot two weeks later — but Alexander was standing on the peak of Division II basketball.

“Last year, I had a chance to go to state, but COVID kind of took that away from me,” Alexander said about his senior season at Staley High School. “This was just, like, an opportunity for me to get that back. First one of many, hopefully.”

As for Jackson, the final buzzer meant more than the conclusion of the game; it signified every moment of work prior to that point in time. Jackson’s mom, Heather, recognized that, too.

Heather Jackson took to Twitter after the game and shared a heartfelt paragraph about her son, one that mentioned how people in the past have said her son has had everything handed to him.

“That stuff came from high school,” Isaiah Jackson said. “I mean, now seeing the result of winning the national championship as a freshman and getting minutes, that meant a lot to me to show those people.”

His mom’s message on social media wasn’t alone; it was accompanied by a picture, one that showed her son laying in a pile of blue and white confetti.

In that moment, Isaiah Jackson wasn’t concerned with what anybody from his past had to say about him. He wasn’t concerned with preparing to fill Alexander’s role for another game. He wasn’t concerned at all, actually.

Instead, Isaiah Jackson was right where he always wanted to be.

“It was surreal. I felt like everything had been done. All the work that we’d done since preseason was so much greater than what I ever imagined,” Jackson said about that moment. “Laying in that confetti, seeing the confetti fall, it felt great.”

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# Soccer lethargic after long hiatus

**CORBIN SMITH**  
Sports Reporter | @curly\_corbs

Northwest soccer is searching for solutions after a lack of offense resulted in losses to Central Missouri and Emporia State. The Bearcats failed to score a goal in either game, and coach Marc Gordon said he's at fault for his team's performance.

"I don't know if the information I gave out during our downtime was too much," Gordon said. "I think we're overthinking opportunities within the game. I've got to work the team back into the simple part of the game and let them play. Maybe for the players to take on the information was too much. I have to simplify the game for us again."



Gordon assessed the games and his own performance, and realized there's a couple different factors that resulted in the losses. He said he could've done better with substitutions and putting players in that match up better with each other.

Offensive struggles plagued the 'Cats (1-2-1, 0-1 MIAA), and Gordon described their play as somewhat passive. In their 3-0 loss to the Jennies (5-3, 1-1 MIAA), missed scoring opportunities, Gordon said, is what led to Central's dominance. A lethargic offense, coupled with defensive miscues, took the Bearcats out of contention.

"Historically, UCM will come out each half very hard and fast," Gordon said. "We conceded one set piece. The defensive side of things, I feel like we're better even though the result doesn't show it. I feel like, defensively, we're a bit more organized."

To make matters worse for Northwest, the team lost senior midfielder Madi McKeever, as she strained her calf roughly 10 minutes into the contest. To her dissatisfaction, she viewed the game from a rather difficult point of view and

was forced to be a spectator.

"It was disappointing that we dropped the games, but I think it was a wake-up call," McKeever said. "We can't start slow because other teams will start too fast and too hard in this conference to play catch up. That's what we kind of learned this weekend and that we always need to be turned on and ready. We definitely could've had better results this weekend if we would've done that."

McKeever is hopeful that she'll be able to return to the field for the team's next matchup against Missouri Western (4-1-1, 1-0 MIAA) April 9 but wants to play it safe. She's currently unsure of how long she'll be missing from action but is doing all that she can to rejoin her teammates.

21

Number of days the Bearcats went without playing a game

Despite being unwillingly sidelined, McKeever was able to see flaws in her team she wouldn't regularly see on the field.

"It was really hard not being able to get out there and be with the team," McKeever said. "I see all the heart they put into it. It's also good to take a break, step back and see where — once you're back — you can help your team. I can be a leader on the sidelines and support in that way."

McKeever said the three-week break was partially the reason why the team couldn't get any solid offense going. The break, in some ways, put the Bearcats'

## UP NEXT

NW vs. Missouri Western  
3 p.m. April 9  
Bearcat Pitch

competitive nature on ice, despite having weekly scrimmages to amp up the intensity.

Finding a suitable replacement for a game atmosphere is rather difficult because the team only has itself to push them. McKeever said both Central and Emporia (5-0, 1-0 MIAA) benefited from playing in games, while Northwest was running plays against its own defense.

In its 1-0 loss to Emporia, Northwest again found itself playing from behind. Although they conceded one goal to the Hornets during the first 20 minutes of play, that one goal was too much for the Bearcats' offense to overcome.

"I want the players to know that they can shoot the ball," Gordon said. "The attacking front five, that's the expectation. We were overthinking opportunities, and I wish we would've given ourselves a chance by shooting the ball."

The 'Cats discussed having a more aggressive approach to games with the intent to eliminate the struggle of clawing their way back. With Northwest's schedule now resembling a normal fall slate, the Bearcats will have a chance to bounce back against Western and Washburn April 9 and April 11, respectively.

"We started slow in both matches," Gordon said. "My messaging to the players will be focusing on getting back to the simple things and trusting themselves in decision making. Of course, the aim is always to come out and already be at game speed."



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN  
Senior midfielder Madi McKeever fights for the ball against Central Missouri's Madi Poertner in Northwest soccer's 3-0 loss to UCM April 2 at Bearcat Pitch. The 'Cats secured a 5-4 victory against the Jennies March 5.

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Tennis nabs crucial wins, preps for tough road trip

CALVIN SILVER Sports Reporter I @CalvinSilvers

No. 23-ranked Northwest men's tennis faced regional foe Southeastern Oklahoma State April 1, looking to stay in the No. 1 spot in the MIAA North Division. The Bearcats (11-2 overall, 6-0 North Division) started the contest slow, but roster depth played a key factor late, securing a 4-3 victory over the Savage Storm. Southeastern dominated doubles



play, picking up victories at No. 1 and No. 3. While Northwest duo Andrea Zamurri and Franco Oliva picked up a 6-2 set win, improving their overall record to 8-3, the Savage Storm held a 1-0 lead after doubles play. Struggles continued for the Bearcats when Southeastern took a tight grasp on the duel by scoring wins at No. 2 and No. 3 singles. However, the bottom half of the roster ignited a spark, with juniors Martin Sanchez and Agustin Velasco securing wins to tie the match at 3-3.

"I think we really have a complete team with the guys this year, where anybody can win at any spot at any time," Northwest coach Mark Rosewell said about the roster's depth. "You saw our two and three got beat, and we lost the doubles. It came down to a 4-3 match in which this team beat us last year 4-0, so it was outstanding." The duel came down to the No. 4 singles. Northwest freshman Filippo Piranomonte felt the pressure of propelling the Bearcats to a victory heading into the third and final set against Savage Storm junior George Botha. In crunch time, Piranomonte seemed unfazed, swinging the racket to a 6-1 third set victory, breaking a two-duel losing streak for the Bearcats.

"Well, I think both teams are really coming together as we play more matches and get to know each other better and so forth," Rosewell said. "I think we got a really great team concept going right now, as far as what has to be done and so forth to succeed, and we're doing it." The recognition for Bearcat men's tennis did not end there, as Zamurri was named MIAA's men's tennis athlete of the week, the second time he has been awarded the title this season. Zamurri went 2-0 in singles and 2-0 in doubles and helped Northwest win a pair of duals against Rockhurst and Southeastern Oklahoma State. Zamurri also improved his single record at No. 1 to 13-0 this season. "Well, he's a returning All-American in doubles, but I think he's also

UP NEXT

NW @ Southern Arkansas April 11 Topeka, Kansas

been the No. 1 in the region on the singles rankings," Rosewell said. "I think if he keeps it up like he's doing, of course, he's undefeated right now, but he has a chance to be an All-American this year. We'll see how it turns out." The next opponent for the men is No. 24 Southern Arkansas April 11 in Topeka, Kansas. The last match-up between these two schools took place March 10, 2020, when the Muleriders stole a 4-3 victory.

SEE ACE | A6



ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN

Trailed by freshman guard Byron Alexander (11), fellow freshman guard Isaiah Jackson exits the court at Bearcat Arena after a Northwest men's basketball regular season matchup in March. Both true freshmen, Alexander and Jackson played pivotal roles off the bench in the Bearcats' run for their third NCAA Division II National Championship in four postseasons.

Freshmen impactful during newest title run

JON WALKER Sports Editor I @ByJonWalker

Northwest men's basketball was 4 minutes and 11 seconds away from the Final Four when Byron Alexander went down. The Bearcats led West Liberty 93-69 at that point, so Northwest coach Ben McCollum wasn't relying on the freshman guard for any late-game heroics March 24 in Evansville, Indiana. But there Alexander was, lying on his back near half court, on the side closest to Northwest's bench and right in front of the scorers table, holding his left ankle while trainer Nick Peters and McCollum stood over him. Alexander didn't know it then, but that was the last time he'd actually play during the 2020-21 season. "When I went down, I was hurt and I was pissed," Alexander said. "I knew my teammates would get the job done for me because, I mean, we've been through everything together this season, and I knew they'd finish."



Prior to that moment, Alexander recorded his first collegiate double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds. His production had become crucial toward Northwest's success during the postseason. Despite a milestone performance, perhaps it wasn't his best. Without him, the Bearcats would've never been in Evansville, Indiana, for their third Elite Eight in five years. Northwest was dominated during the opening minutes of the Central Region Tournament title game March 16 in Aberdeen, South Dakota. The Bearcats couldn't buy a bucket if they were free against Northern State — at least not until Alexander checked in and made a layup 11 seconds after entering the game to cut Northern's lead to 10. He finished that game with a career-high 21 points, marking the first 20-point performance of his collegiate career. He added five rebounds, too, during his 31 minutes of action that night. His efforts, and everyone's alike, helped defeat Northern 91-86 in overtime.

"I guess it was just a win or go home situation," Alexander said. "It was just, like, if (Northern) weren't going to let anybody else step up, then I've gotta step up. I don't know, I just had that mentality."

"Laying in that confetti, seeing the confetti fall, it felt great."

-ISAIAH JACKSON

That moment wasn't by accident, though. Alexander didn't sub in for junior guard Diego Bernard, who was in foul trouble early during that game, just because he was the only option.

Even though he was new to a program that had a multitude of success before him — and will probably have success after he's gone from Northwest — he served as the sixth man. Northwest's starting five was set prior to the season beginning. Of course, it was going to feature Bernard, junior guard Trevor Hudgins, senior forward Ryan Hawkins, sophomore guard Luke Waters and sophomore forward Wes Dreamer. However, it wasn't certain who the first person off the bench was going to be. "I thought that I'd have to work my tail off in order to get minutes," Alexander said about his mindset before the season started. "Coming in here, they made it easy. My teammates just kind of helped me, and I wanted to help them. ... I just wanted to make sure that I put in my time." "He just needed to add some intensity from the early season," McCollum said about Alexander. "Once he added that intensity piece, I thought he became much, much better. We became a lot more difficult to defend when he was out there."

He put in that time, nearly a whole season's worth. In fact, Alexander played nearly 20 minutes per game, which was good enough for sixth on the team. Yet there he was, being helped off the court inside of the Ford Center, where he resided on the end of Northwest's bench until the final buzzer sounded against West Liberty. Insert Isaiah Jackson. Jackson, also a freshman guard, perhaps expected to play during the final few minutes of that game. He never really expected it to be because Alexander was hurt and Bernard was in foul trouble. He thought it'd be because the Bearcats were up by enough to where the game was out of reach, which is what his role was for most of the season. The Bearcats' Final Four match-up with third-seeded Flagler was less than 24 hours from that moment, and Alexander's status was hanging in the balance for most of that time.

SEE FRESHMEN | A6



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

Freshman pitcher Phil Brenneman winds up to pitch during the first game of Northwest baseball's doubleheader against Missouri Western April 2.

THOMAS TURNER Missourian Reporter I @NWMSports

Northwest baseball was able to steal two games away from rival Missouri Western during a three-game series with the Griffons April 2-3 at the Bearcat Baseball Field. The Bearcats have won four of their past six games prior to their upcoming eight-game road trip. In the first game, Northwest won 6-4, mostly due to the bullpen. Northwest's ace, junior pitcher Max Spitzmiller, left the game with an injury after pitching one inning. "The bullpen really stepped up," Northwest coach Darin Loe said. "Spitzmiller is going to be out next weekend; we will find out more after that." Spitzmiller is now the second Northwest starting pitcher to go down with an injury. Last week, junior Spencer Hanson left



the game with back tightness. However, Loe expects Hanson to pitch in the Bearcats' upcoming series, which starts April 10 against Central Oklahoma. Out of the bullpen, freshman pitcher Phil Brenneman secured the win, going 4 2/3 innings and allowed two earned runs. Redshirt-freshman Tanner Smith pitched 2 2/3 innings and did not give up a hit, while sophomore pitcher Alex Slocum got the final two outs for his fourth save of the season. "That was awesome to watch," Spitzmiller said. "It was great to see some of the young guys come in and compete and win the game for us." Junior shortstop Jacob Pinkerton went 2-for-3 with a run and an RBI. Senior first baseman Connor Quick also added to the score with a two-RBI hit and redshirt-freshman Ethan Judd had two hits and scored twice. Pinkerton has now extended his

UP NEXT

NW @ Central Oklahoma April 10-11 Edmond, Oklahoma

on-base streak to 12 games in a row while batting in the leadoff spot. "I really do enjoy hitting lead-off," Pinkerton said. "I like to see what the pitcher has and if his stuff is working early or not. I feel like I'm a good fit for the leadoff spot." In game two, the Bearcats had four straight two-run innings, which led to an 8-4 win. They combined for 10 hits and four walks in the game. Sophomore left fielder Ryan Koski went 3-for-4 with an RBI and scored twice. He is amid a six-game hitting streak and now has nine multi-hit games this season.

FULL STORY ONLINE: NWMISSOURIANEWS.COM